



LTR Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2000

IFLA Standing Committee on Library Theory and Research
(International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions)



66th IFLA Council and General Conference

Jerusalem, Israel, 13-18 August 2000

**"The people of the book
invite[d] the keepers
of the book," to "Information
for Cooperation: Creating the
Global Library of the Future."**

Declaring that "The enormous potential for international co-operation in the exchange and utilization of information which today's technology offers, and tomorrow's technology promises, presents a unique opportunity to library and information professionals. The growing demand for bibliographic exchange, multicultural Internet resources, research unhampered by geographic or linguistic limitations, and cross-cultural networking, both in the sense of online technology and offline partnerships, is a challenge to libraries which should be welcomed and which must be addressed.

The Global Information Infrastructure which is developing and which will surely be in place early in the 21st century, will require information professionals with a sense of obligation, both to their national needs and to the larger goals of the international community, to digitize, navigate, distribute and preserve all the world's knowledge for all the world's people. "



Standing Committee on Library Theory and Research Members with Session I Participants.

Conference Subtopics Included:

- Exchange of electronic bibliographic data
- Cross-cultural networking partnerships
- The multicultural Internet
- Management of information: "librarianship," for the 21st century
- The on-site library in the era of the virtual library
- Educating the professional for the Global Information Infrastructure
- Research in a global environment
- The study of reading in the digital society
- Preservation of the past for the future



IFLA Standing Committee on Library Theory and Research
(International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions)
LTR Newsletter November 2000

§

Library Theory and Research

The Standing Committee presented two main sessions at the conference. The first was held on Monday, 14 August and the second on Tuesday, 15 August. Edited abstracts follow. The Online site for access to the full papers and available Email addresses are provided.

Session I: "Collaboration between Theory and Evidence-Based Practice"

Chaired by Wilda Newman



Pictured: Wilda Newman; Judith Segal; Chutima Sacchanand; Maureen Kahlert; Lis Byberg, LTR Chair; Kerry Smith, LTR Secretary/Treasurer

The impact of the baby boomers on the public library: myth or reality?

MAUREEN KAHLERT

Midland Public Library, Midland, Western Australia

E-mail: kahlert@swan.wa.gov.au

Along with the other nations, Australia will experience one of the greatest demographic movements and cultural shifts in history with the Baby Boomer generation. This generation has long commanded the attention of demographers, politicians,

marketers and social scientists. En masse the generation has had a significant impact on the national psyche, politics and the social fabric of all nations. The Boomer generation transformed and literally disrupted the social norms of the established society of the day. In numbers they are vast, however the sheer numbers are not entirely the issue. This paper forms part of preliminary research conducted for a PhD through Charles Sturt University, New South Wales, Australia on the Baby Boomers and public libraries. It may be noted that this is not a definitive document on the Baby Boomers - extensive further research and investigation will be conducted to complete the thesis on this topic. See paper at: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla66/papers/051-099e.htm>

From theory to practice: a case of research in library and information service in Thailand

CHUTIMA SACCHANAND

Sukothai Thammathirat Open University, Nonthaburi, Thailand

E-mail: laasschu@samsorn.stou.ac.th

The author outlines the background of research in library and information science in Thailand. Reasons for its minor role and impact are summarized. Collaboration between theory and practice in library and information science, in the case of STOU (Sukothai Thammathirat Open University), is presented as evidence-based practice. See paper at: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla66/papers/052-099e.htm>

Two cultures: librarians and professors

JUDITH SEGAL

Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington, USA



**IFLA Standing Committee on Library Theory and Research
(International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions)
LTR Newsletter November 2000**

This paper addresses the struggle of librarians for academic recognition. It is based on a case study of a grassroots library association striving for academic rank and theories of association. See paper at: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla66/papers/053-99e.htm>

§

Session II: "Bibliometrics: Still a Useful Measure"

Chaired by Professor Beverly Lynch

Research capacity in library and information science in South Africa: an overview

DENNIS OCHOLLA

Department of Library and Information Science, University of Zululand, Kwadlangezwa, South Africa

Uses bibliometric analyses to provide, in general, an awareness of the overall research potential and capacity in South Africa and, in particular, the potential of institutions in this country. Basically, an on-line list of masters and doctoral theses and dissertations as reflected in the South African Bibliographic Network (SABINET) from 1993-2000 is analyzed in order to determine research capacity and potential. In the first instance, it is found that a large proportion of graduate research originates largely from LIS departments based at the formerly advantaged white universities and that females, who also publish the preponderance of articles, are the dominant contributors to this output. The University of Natal, the Rand Afrikaans University and the University of Pretoria, respectively, lead in LIS graduate research output. A large part of the graduate research results is consistent with a similar on-going analysis of the South

African Journal of Library and Information Science (which yields the highest number of scholarly/academic articles by South African LIS authors) 1990-1998. See paper at: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla66/papers/054-127e.htm>

The emergence of alternative medicine as a new field: a bibliometric overview

MOSHE YITZHAKI and TZIPI SHAHAR

Department of Information and Library Studies, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, Israel

The field of alternative medicine has undergone a significant transformation in recent decades. From a marginal and disregarded subject it has seemingly emerged into a large and widely-recognized field, undergoing a process of growing consolidation with the conventional medical-scientific establishment. Consequently, a growing number of articles, dealing with various aspects of alternative medicine, have appeared in scientific and professional publications. The purpose of this study was to bibliometrically assess the growth of the literature dealing with alternative medicine, during the recent twenty years (1975-1994), as reflected in the conventional medical and scientific bibliographical databases used by the medical profession. About 87% were published in only eight 'top' countries out of the fifty found in the study. Caution is needed, however, when drawing conclusions concerning the accurate situation world-wide, since findings are probably strongly biased in favor of the western countries and the English language, two biases which prevail in the eighteen databases searched. See paper at: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla66/papers/055-127e.htm>



IFLA Standing Committee on Library Theory and Research
(International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions)
LTR Newsletter November 2000

Bibliometry: penetration level in the university teaching of library science and its application in the field of librarianship in the countries of Mercosur

DANIEL RAMON RIOS

CONABIP, Buenos Aires, Argentina

E-mail: danrios@infovia.com.ar

The incipient presence of the bibliometrics in the university teaching field in the careers of library science of the Mercosur (constituent countries: Argentine, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay- invited countries Bolivia and Chile) is here mentioned as well as the almost null participation as specific subject in the careers above mentioned. It is important to denote that the circulation of specific bibliography of local authors mentioned in the catalogues of universities and libraries is relatively new and with a reduced number of authors. Taking into account the available documentation it is shown that the scientific research that applies the methodology and techniques of the bibliometrics is found in the field of biomedical libraries and it is scarce in the humanity libraries. In our country, if the tendency of these last years continues, as the use of computers and of processing word and calculation programs, the constant training and the network among libraries, the quantitative treatment of the information and documentation will be easier and the bibliometrics will be a basic instrument - but not the only one - to improve the efficiency in taking decisions for the acquisition of collections, identifications of users, analysis of human resources and valorization of financial resources, among other aspects. It is here concluded that besides of the teaching and application of the bibliometrics, it is important to develop wide and comprehensive database, normalized and indexed in Spanish and of easy access through the new telematic technology. Otherwise, it is observed that the bibliometric investigations appear

vitated from their origin. See paper at:
<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla66/papers/162-127e.htm>

§

Minutes of the LTR Business Meetings,
Jerusalem, Israel, 2000

12 August 2000

1 & 2. Attendance and Apologies

Participating:

Chair: Lis Byberg (Norway)

lis.byberg@jbi.hioslo.no

Secretary: Kerry Smith (Australia)

kerry@biblio.curtin.edu.au

Editor & Information Coordinator: Wilda Newman (USA)

wilda.newman@JHUAPL.edu

Beverly Lynch (USA)

Christine Girard (France)

Pascal Sanz (France)

Marian Koren (Netherlands)

Observers: John Harvey (Cyprus),

Don Davis, Magnus Torstensson, Shahzad Yusuf

Apologies : Mirja Iivonen (Finland), Chutima Sacchanand (Thailand), Bob Usherwood (UK)



Pictured: Paul Harvey; Pascal Sanz; Lis Byberg, LTR Chair; Beverly Lynch; Christine Girard; Daniel Ramon Rios; Marian Koren; Kerry Smith, LTR Secretary/Treasurer; Wilda Newman, LTR Information Coordinator.



**IFLA Standing Committee on Library Theory and Research
(International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions)
LTR Newsletter November 2000**

Lis Byberg (LB), chair, called the meeting to order.

3. Minutes of SC meeting. Bangkok Thailand, 21 and 27 August 1999 – Accepted.

4. Business arising from these minutes

PB Issues: a number of issues had arisen from the restructure of IFLA .

- There had been a 27% return on the postal ballot regarding the statutes and all attendees, particularly voting members were encouraged to attend the session and use their voting right on Friday.
- There will be two sessions on the proposed disbanding of Division VIII at the conference.
- The evaluation of IFLA's core activities was under discussion and would be particularly mentioned at the National Libraries section meetings and at CDNL because members of these two bodies contribute significantly to the core programmes of IFLA.
- IFLA's *Professional Priorities* are to be adopted by PB and later by the IFLA Executive Board. LB tabled copies at the Friday LTR meeting.
- Ian Johnson's paper on the Quality of papers at IFLA conferences was being hotly discussed – CB VII decided that the conditions as set were too rigid. The paper will be discussed at the PB meeting in December 2000. LTR agreed with CR VII's comment.

5. Jerusalem Conference

Kerry Smith reported on the arrangements thus far: The workshop session was Monday 14 August 2000, 3 presenters: Maureen Kahlert (Australia), Chutima Sacchanand (Thailand), and Judith Segal

(USA) on *Collaboration between theory and evidence-based practice*.

The Open session held on Tuesday 15 August 2000, 3 speakers: Dennis Ocholla (South Africa), Moshe Yitzhake (Israel) and Daniel Rios (Spain) on *Bibliometrics: still a useful measure*.

LTR was also co-sponsoring a session on Ethics with FAIFE, which FAIFE was arranging.

18 August 2000:

Chair: Lis Byberg (Norway)

lis.byberg@jbi.hioslo.no

Secretary: Kerry Smith (Australia)

kerry@biblio.curtin.edu.au

Editor & Information Co ordinator: Wilda Newman (USA)

wilda.newman@JHUAPL.edu

Daniel Ramon Rios (Argentina)

danrios@infovia.com.arg

Chutima Sacchanand (Thailand)

laasschu@samsorn.stou.ac.th

Beverly Lynch (USA)

Christine Girard (France)

Pascal Sanz (France)

Marian Koren (Netherlands)

Observers: Alisa Levy (Israel), Malebogo

Haolebogwe (Botswana), John Harvey (Cyprus),

The Committee remarked that the meetings rooms for committee meetings were unsuitable. It was agreed that we did not need to hold two committee meetings and that short business meetings, perhaps before our sessions, would suffice.

Comments on the Jerusalem conference: needed a theme; IFLA should concentrate on key themes and arrange speakers and plenaries; vendor discontent at early closing times; few places for delegates to sit; poster sessions went well though the infrastructure was poor – comment made that Boston wants more poster sessions; too many sessions by all groups.



**IFLA Standing Committee on Library Theory and Research
(International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions)
LTR Newsletter November 2000**

Does LTR need two sessions? Used to have just the one with broader coverage. Decided that we would keep with two sessions until we find they are not required. LTR workshop worked as a workshop, which was very good – we should aim for this in future and not have it as another talk fest. This would need preparation on our part when approaching/accepting papers for the workshop.

6. Medium Term Programme and Action Plan

The current document was tabled and discussed.

Action Plan: many of the actions had been achieved.

Item 1: Listserv was up and running. Wilda Newman (WN) would be attending the Listserv coordinators meeting at the conference to discuss some of the overly managerial approaches IFLA seemed to have. LTR agreed that it supported a non-moderated List, which currently operates in a “closed” environment.

LB reminded members that in order to be a member of the CB Listserv one had to request to join. LTR members thought that membership ought to be automatic for those who were members of CB and that this was unnecessary bureaucracy.

Items 2 and 3 have been done.

Item 4: translation of the section’s leaflet had been almost accomplished thanks to the supreme efforts of John Harvey in securing some of the more obscure translations. KS was now endeavouring to obtain assistance for formatting the new leaflets so that the meaning of the translation was not lost. KS apologized for the missing French version – she had forgotten to liaise with Christine Girard and would do this as soon as she could. The leaflet would need some amending after the revision of the Action Plan at IFLA 2001.

Item 5: LB commented that there had been little co-operation between CB VII regarding standards. KS remarked that E & T was

holding a session on the education and training standards on Wednesday at the conference. KS and Beverly Lynch would attend to ensure that LIS research appeared in the documentation.

Items 6 and 7 has been accomplished.

Some minor changes to the Plan were suggested: Item 2: change “sponsor” to organize.

Add an item 8: That the section synthesise and report on research papers presented at the IFLA conference.

Medium Term Programme: to be revised at IFLA 2001 in Boston.

LB suggested we use the List to suggest changes and that in our discussions on this and the Action Plan we should remember the new IFLA Professional Priorities. Please send all of your suggestions to KS. It was suggested that the revised version for Boston be translated after it has been approved in Boston.

8. Section Newsletter

IFLA will be presenting a prize for the best section newsletter at this conference. PB are discussing the future direction of section newsletters.

WN reported that she had published two newsletters: December 1999 and July 2000 and they are on IFLANET. She tabled copies. The next issue would be before the end of 2000 and that all photos should be sent to her either in hard copy or electronic form (jpeg). She commented that she did not support standardization of Newsletters.

Section Leaflet

See comments above. It is now available in Spanish, Russian, English, German, though folded versions were needed. Daniel Rios offered to do a Portuguese version if



**IFLA Standing Committee on Library Theory and Research
(International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions)
LTR Newsletter November 2000**

necessary. Ailsa Levy's offer to assist with Hebrew translation of leaflet was gratefully received.

9. Financial report

KS reported that the Section had AUD1150.25 in the bank account. WN tabled a request for reimbursement for USD186.97 for Newsletter costs.

10. Projects

LB reported that the Library History would be seeking money for their conference which they were holding with LTR. She also reported that E & T were considered the production of a new edition of the directory of library schools. Comment made that a web version would be preferred.

11. IFLA Boston 2001

LB reported that she and KS has considered some directions for this: the theme was *Libraries and Librarians: making a difference in the knowledge age*

Workshop:

- Collaboration between LIS research and the work of the practitioner--making a difference in the knowledge age. KS had read a paper where research had NOT made a difference and it might be interesting to consider inviting the author;
- B. Lynch keen to follow up a theme of management and leadership--need to fit this in with the theme--researchers in the area? Practitioner evaluations and experiences? Perhaps a paper to describe the programmes and then discussion on their relevance in a workshop with all nations?
- LB suggested a paper on literary tastes of librarians and collection development.

LB and KS to arrange Call for Papers if necessary.

Open session: 3 – 4 speakers:

- International cooperation in research: making a difference in the knowledge age. Ian Johnston had submitted an interest in giving a paper on this in Israel--Perhaps Boston? Christine Girard and Pascal Franz suggested International cooperation and the EU community; Cooperation in Preservation: cooperation between France and African countries on conservation and preservation programmes? Pascal and Christine to investigate this further as will Malebogo Haolebogwe from Botswana.

Glasgow 2002

Theme is: *Libraries for life: democracy, diversity, delivery.*

Perhaps only the one session? This might be a panel; - following the theme of the conference and the role of LIS research in it. All Committee to think about research which has made an impact on the theme issues. Section to discuss this over the List.

Berlin 2003:

No discussion

13. Other business

LB tabled Call for Papers on conference: Libraries in times of utopian thoughts and social protests – the libraries of the late 1960-ies and the 1970-ies.

WN reported on the Listserv coordinators meeting: lists are moderated to prevent spamming. List managers are to try and turn off the moderated buttons. Closed Lists are to contain members of the particular committee only and are for administrative purposes only.

Our section acronym: LB confirmed that THEOR was no longer to be used. It would



**IFLA Standing Committee on Library Theory and Research
(International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions)
LTR Newsletter November 2000**

be LTR – as before. IFLA had moved from this for no particular reason.

Ian Johnson's paper received no support from PB although it has reminded all to do a more profession job with conference papers and organisation.

Prepared by Kerry Smith
10 November 2000.
Secretary/Treasurer
IFLA Library Theory and Research

"Shalom!

Officers of the Section on Library Theory and Research:

Chair
Ms. Lis Byberg
Faculty of Journalism, Library and
Information Science
Pilestredet 52
N-0167 Norway
Tel. *(47) 22452-6080
Fax *(47) 22452-605
Email: lis.byberg@jbi.hioslo.no

Secretary/Treasurer
Ms. Kerry Smith
Lecturer, Department of Information Studies
School of Media and Information
Curtin University, G.P.O. Box U1987
Perth, WA 6845 Australia
Tel.*(08) 9266-7215
Fax *(08) 9266-3152
E-mail: kerry@biblio.curtin.edu.au

Information Coordinator
Ms. Wilda Newman
Johns Hopkins University
Applied Physics Laboratory
11100 Johns Hopkins Road
Laurel, MD 20723-6099, USA
Tel.*(1)240-228-5721
Fax*(1)240-228-6499
E-mail: wilda.newman@jhuapl.edu

Boston 2001:

The United States National Organizing Committee and the US library community take great pleasure in inviting you to the 67th IFLA Council and General Conference which will take place in historic Boston, Massachusetts, from August 16-25, 2001.

***Theme: Libraries and Librarians:
Making a Difference in the
Knowledge Age***



See <http://www.ifla.org> for more information on IFLA & any conference.

Future Conferences

2002 – Glasgow
2003 – Berlin
2004 – Buenos Aires
2005 – Oslo
2006 – Seoul